

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, June 21, 1911

Beinn Bhreagh, NEAR Baddeck, Nova Scotia. June 21, 1911. Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell, 1331 Conn. Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C. Dear Mabel:

I will put down a few items here (Pansy Lodge) and hope to write you later at B. B. Hall.

Mr. Manchester dined with me Monday (June 19) and went over the accounts of the Farm Department. Mr. Byrnes dined with me yesterday (June 20) and went over the accounts of the Building & Wharves Department. Mr. Davidson will dine with me this evening (June 21) and go over the accounts of the B. B. Nursery Department. John McDermid will dine with me tomorrow (June 22) and go over the accounts of the Stable Department.

Mr. Manchester will remain here until September 30 so as to close out the accounts of his Department; and give us time to decide what to do with the Farm Department after he leaves here. I understand that his uncle, who is giving him certain farm property in New Brunswick; or giving him control of it with ultimate reversion on his death, is not in good health, and that is the reason why Mr. Manchester has been anxious to take up the farm in New Brunswick as soon as practicable. I think he is convinced that it would not be fair to us to leave before September 30; and I have told him² that we should not object to his going up to New Brunswick for a short time, when the proper time arrives, to get his affairs there in order. He is satisfied with this arrangement and has notified his uncle.

The Farm Department shows a profit to September 30 1910 of \$713.00 for the year 1909–10. Half of this (\$356.74) has been presented to Mr. Manchester as extra remuneration for services during that year (1909–10); and the other half of the profit (\$356.75) has been deposited to the credit of Beinn Bhreagh Farm Department to be added to the working

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capital for the year 1910–11. As a matter of fact the cheques have not yet been handed over but will be probably today.

Mr. Byrnes' accounts show that the Building & Wharves Department, or rather Mr. Byrnes on our account, has expended during the past year between \$10,000 and \$11,000 — mostly on buildings and wharves. Finishing the McCurdy Bungalow (\$600.00); building new Baldwin Bungalow (\$2,600); building boat-house (\$600.00); digging canal, etc. (\$600.00); the new motor boat Kia Ora (\$1856.27); hard and soft coal supplies (\$344.11); plumbing at the Lodge (\$200.00). These are the principal items with the exception of salaries, and two items which seem to me very large, and which I must say I do not understand. One of these is an account of A. S. McDonald, Express Agent, in payment of expenses in the past that Byrnes does not know about. He was simply instructed to pay the bill and it amounts to \$504.24. I will inquire into this and look at the bill itself. The other item amounts 3 to \$508.14 for “repairs on the Kia Ora motor”. This seems to me to be very excessive, especially in consideration of the fact that the motor is not now in a perfectly satisfactory condition.

The cost of repairs on the Gauldrie motor amounted to \$150.000, and it seems to be in good and satisfactory shape.

The installments of money I arranged to have paid to Mr. Byrnes before we left on our trip, were paid by Charlie at the proper times, and have proved sufficient to pay all the items leaving a small balance of between one and two hundred dollars.

You will be sorry to hear that the severe winter has destroyed all the rose bushes at the pergola.

Your loving Alec